SJS 44 (Rev. 12/07, NJ 5/08)

### **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

(===:										
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS						
BLANCA CABALLERO				NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC.						
(b) County of Residence	of First Listed Plaintiff			County of Residence	e of First	Liste	d Defendant			
(c) Attorney's (Firm Na Craig Thor Kimmel, E.	me, Address, Telephone Ni Squire	umber and Email Add	lress)		AND CON		IATION CASES, US	SE THE LOCATI	ON OF TH	ΗE
Kimmel & Silverman,				Attornova (IEV						
30 E. Butler Pike				Attorneys (If Known)						
Ambler, PA 19002										
(215) 540-8888 II. BASIS OF JURISE	ICTION (Place on "Y";	n One Box Only)	III C	ITIZENSHIP OF	PRIN	CIPA	AL PARTIES	Place an "X" in (	ne Boy fo	r Plaintiff
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<ul><li>2 U.S. Government Defendant</li></ul>	☐ 4 Diversity  (Indicate Citizenshi	p of Parties in Item III)	Citiz	en of Another State	<b>1</b> 2	<b>J</b> 2	Incorporated and P of Business In A		<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	Brief description of ca Fair Debt Collect	<sup>use:</sup> ction Practices A	ct							
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER F.R.C.P.		Ŋ D	DEMAND \$			HECK YES only: URY DEMAND:	if demanded in	complain  No	t:
VIII. RELATED CAS	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE			DO	OCKE	T NUMBER			
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# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be assignment to appropriate calendar.	be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of
Address of Plaintiff: 83 UL SE COUSEY AVE., Apt. C2	LHappy valley, or 97086
Address of Defendant: 507 Prudential Rd., Horsha	m PA 19044
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction:	
(Use Reverse Side For A	Additional Space)
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation a	nd any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock?
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a)	Yes□ NoX
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yes□ No X
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:	D . M
Case Number: Judge	Date Terminated:
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:	
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year.	<b>↓</b>
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior s	Yes No X
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior s action in this court?	dut pending of within one year previously terminated
	Ycs No No
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier r	
terminated action in this court?	Yes□ No <b>X</b>
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil right	s case filed by the same individual?
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Yes No No
CIVIL: (Place ✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)	
A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:
1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	1. □ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
2. ☐ FELA	2. ☐ Airplane Personal Injury
3. □ Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. ☐ Assault, Defamation
4. □ Antitrust	4. ☐ Marine Personal Injury
5. □ Patent	5. □ Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
6. □ Labor-Management Relations	6. □ Other Personal Injury (Please
	specify)
7. □ Civil Rights	7. □ Products Liability
8. ☐ Habeas Corpus	8. □ Products Liability — Asbestos
9. ☐ Securities Act(s) Cases	9. □ All other Diversity Cases
10. □ Social Security Review Cases	(Please specify)
11. All other Federal Question Cases \SV.S.C. \\$1692	
/ (Please specify)	TTTC L TTC Y
ARBITRATION CERT	
I, Counsel of record/do hereby certif	ŷ:
□ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and	belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of
\$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;  Relief other than monetary damages is sought.	
2/2/12	51100
DATE:	Attorney I.D.#
Attorney-at-Law  NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if the	•
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or	within one year previously terminated action in this court
except as noted above,	one year providing secuniated action in this court
2/1/12	57100
DATE: Attoricy-at-Law	Attorney I.D.#
CIV. 609 (6/08)	

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

#### CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

Blanca caballero	:	CIVIL ACTION
NW FINANCIÀ SYSTEMS,1	nc.	NO.

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

#### SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:

(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases	) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.					
b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits.						
(c) Arbitration – Cases req	uired to be designated for arbitration	on under Local Civil Rule 53.2.	Ķĭ			
(d) Asbestos – Cases involente exposure to asbestos.	ving claims for personal injury or p	property damage from	( )			
commonly referred to a	Cases that do not fall into tracks (as complex and that need special or side of this form for a detailed exp	intense management by	( )			
(f) Standard Management	- Cases that do not fall into any one	e of the other tracks.	( )			
2 7 12 Date 215 540 8888	Craigthor Kimmel Attorney-at-law 817-788-2864	Blanca Caballero Attorney for KIMM el O Creditla				
Telephone	FAX Number	E-Mail Address				

(Civ. 660) 10/02

#### 1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE 2 EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA 3 BLANCA CABALLERO, 4 Plaintiff 5 Case No.: v. 6 7 NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC., COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR **JURY TRIAL** 8 Defendant (Unlawful Debt Collection Practices) 9 10 **COMPLAINT** 11 BLANCA CABALLERO ("Plaintiff"), by and through her attorneys, KIMMEL & 12 SILVERMAN, P.C., alleges the following against NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC. 13 ("Defendant"): 14 INTRODUCTION 15 1. Plaintiff's Complaint is based on the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 16 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. ("FDCPA"). 17 JURISDICTION AND VENUE 18 2. Jurisdiction of this court arises pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), which states 19 20 that such actions may be brought and heard before "any appropriate United States district court 21 without regard to the amount in controversy," and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 grants this court original 22 jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the laws of the United States. 23 3. Defendant has its corporate headquarters in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 24 and as such, personal jurisdiction is established. 25 4. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1).

#### **PARTIES**

- 5. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Crescent City, California 95531.
- 6. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(3).
- 7. Also, Plaintiff is a person granted a cause of action under the FDCPA. <u>See</u> 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a) and <u>Wenrich v. Cole</u>, 2000 U.S. Dist LEXIS 18687 (E.D. Pa. Dec. 22, 2000).
- 8. Defendant is a national debt collection company with its corporate headquarters located at 507 Prudential Road, Horsham, Pennsylvania 19044.
- 9. Defendant is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6), and repeatedly contacted Plaintiff in an attempt to collect a debt.
- 10. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers.

#### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 11. At all pertinent times hereto, Defendant was hired to collect a consumer debt and attempted to collect that debt from Plaintiff.
- 12. Upon information and belief, the debt arose out of transactions that were primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 13. Plaintiff never incurred any debts in connection with a business or commercial activities and, therefore, the debt, if truly an obligation owed by her, could have only arisen from a financial obligation for primarily personal, family, or household purposes.
  - 14. The debt Defendant was seeking to collect is a consumer debt.
- 15. Defendant collects, and attempts to collect, debts incurred, or alleged to have been incurred, for personal, family, or household purposes on behalf of creditors using the U.S. Mail, telephone and/or internet.

- 16. Beginning in December 2011, and continuing through January 2012, Defendant continuously and repeatedly contacted Plaintiff on her cellular telephone seeking and demanding payment of an alleged debt.
- 17. Defendant contacted Plaintiff on her cellular telephone, on average, one (1) to three (3) times a day during the relevant period, leaving her pre-recorded voicemail messages.
- 18. In its pre-recorded voicemail messages, Defendant instructed Plaintiff to call them back.
- 19. On numerous occasions, Plaintiff received calls from the following telephone number: (888) 289-0907, which the undersigned has confirmed is a telephone number belonging to Defendant.
- 20. In other instances when Defendant contacted Plaintiff, it blocked its phone number so that "unknown" appeared on Plaintiff's caller ID, in an effort to trick Plaintiff as to its identity and to answer the phone.
- 21. Also, Defendant contacted Plaintiff at times when it was inconvenient for her to receive debt collection calls when it called her on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day (a federal holiday).
- 22. Specifically, Defendant contacted Plaintiff on December 31, 2011 at 9:35 a.m., 12:16 p.m., and 2:06 p.m., and on January 1, 2012, at 8:47 a.m., 10:35 a.m., and 5:41 p.m.
- 23. Defendant intended to harass Plaintiff when it called her "emergency cellular telephone," as Plaintiff uses her cellular telephone solely to make long distance calls and to receive telephone calls from her family members and close friends.
- 24. Plaintiff does not provide her cellular phone number to businesses or to individuals that are not members of her family or close friends, as she does not want to receive

solicitations or random telephone calls.

- 25. Plaintiff is eighty (80) years old, and Defendant's constant and repetitive collection calls were harassing, annoying and disturbing.
- 26. Finally, within five (5) days of its initial contact with Plaintiff, Defendant failed to send Plaintiff any written notification informing her of her rights to dispute the debt and/or request verification of the alleged debt.
- 27. As a result, Plaintiff was unaware of the amount of the debt, the name of the creditor, and her rights to dispute the debt and/or request verification of the debt.
- 28. Upon information and belief, Defendant contacted Plaintiff on a repetitive and continuous basis with the intent of harassing Plaintiff into paying this debt.

#### **CONSTRUCTION OF LAW**

- 29. The FDCPA is a strict liability statute. <u>Taylor v. Perrin, Landry, deLaunay & Durand</u>, 103 F.3d 1232 (5th Cir. 1997). "Because the Act imposes strict liability, a consumer need not show intentional conduct by the debt collector to be entitled to damages." <u>Russell v. Equifax A.R.S.</u>, 74 F. 3d 30 (2d Cir. 1996); <u>see also Gearing v. Check Brokerage Corp.</u>, 233 F.3d 469 (7th Cir. 2000) (holding unintentional misrepresentation of debt collector's legal status violated FDCPA); <u>Clomon v. Jackson</u>, 988 F. 2d 1314 (2d Cir. 1993).
- 30. The FDCPA is a remedial statute, and therefore must be construed liberally in favor of the debtor. Sprinkle v. SB&C Ltd., 472 F. Supp. 2d 1235 (W.D. Wash. 2006). The remedial nature of the FDCPA requires that courts interpret it liberally. Clark v. Capital Credit & Collection Services, Inc., 460 F. 3d 1162 (9th Cir. 2006). "Because the FDCPA, like the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) 15 U.S.C §1601 et seq., is a remedial statute, it should be

construed liberally in favor of the consumer." <u>Johnson v. Riddle</u>, 305 F. 3d 1107 (10th Cir. 2002).

31. The FDCPA is to be interpreted in accordance with the "least sophisticated" consumer standard. See Jeter v. Credit Bureau, Inc., 760 F.2d 1168 (11th Cir. 1985); Graziano v. Harrison, 950 F. 2d 107 (3<sup>rd</sup> Cir. 1991); Swanson v. Southern Oregon Credit Service, Inc., 869 F.2d 1222 (9th Cir. 1988). The FDCPA was not "made for the protection of experts, but for the public - that vast multitude which includes the ignorant, the unthinking, and the credulous, and the fact that a false statement may be obviously false to those who are trained and experienced does not change its character, nor take away its power to deceive others less experienced." Id. The least sophisticated consumer standard serves a dual purpose in that it ensures protection of all consumers, even naive and trusting, against deceptive collection practices, and protects collectors against liability for bizarre or idiosyncratic interpretations of collection notices. Clomon, 988 F. 2d at 1318.

# COUNT I DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 32. In its actions to collect a debt, Defendant violated the FDCPA in one or more of the following ways:
  - a. Defendant violated the FDCPA generally;
  - b. Defendant violated §1692c(a)(1) of the FDCPA when it communicated with Plaintiff at an unusual time or place or a time or place known or which should be known to be inconvenient to Plaintiff;
  - c. Defendant violated §1692d of the FDCPA when it harassed, oppressed or abused Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt;

- d. Defendant violated §1692d(5) of the FDCPA when it caused Plaintiff's phone to ring repeatedly or continuously with the intent to annoy, abuse, or harass Plaintiff;
- e. Defendant violated §1692e of the FDCPA when it used false, deceptive or misleading representations or means in connection with the collection of a debt;
- f. Defendant violated §1692f of the FDCPA when it used unfair and unconscionable means in connection with the collection of a debt; and
- g. Defendant violation §1692g of the FDCPA by failing to send Plaintiff written notification within five (5) days of its initial communication with him informing him of the amount of the debt, the name of the creditor, and of his rights to dispute the debt and/or request verification of the debt.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, BLANCA CABALLERO, respectfully prays for a judgment as follows:

- a. All actual damages suffered pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
- b. Statutor y damages of \$1,000.00 for the violation of the FDCPA pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A);
- c. All reasonable attorneys' fees, witness fees, court costs and other litigation costs incurred by Plaintiff pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1693k(a)(3); and
- d. Any other relief deemed appropriate by this Honorable Court.

# **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff, BLANCA CABALLERO, demands a jury trial in this case.

## Case 2:12-cv-00635-JP Document 1 Filed 02/07/12 Page 10 of 10

Date: 2/7/12

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

By: \_

CRAIG THOR KIMMEL

Attorney ID No.  $5 \times 100$ 

Kimmel & Silverman, P.C.

30 E. Butler Pike

Ambler, PA 19002

Phone: (215) 540-8888 Fax: (877) 788-2864

Email: kimmel@creditlaw.com